

# **California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990**

## **Programmatic Accomplishments**

### **Fiscal Year 2000-2001**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In June of 1990, the voters of California passed Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, commonly referred to as Proposition 117, or the Mountain Lion Initiative. The Act states, "...There is an urgent need to protect the rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat that supports California's unique and varied wildlife resources."

To assure the preservation of unique habitat, the Act created the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF); required an annual transfer of \$30 million into the Fund until the year 2020; and specified how the monies were to be expended for acquiring, restoring and enhancing habitat necessary to protect wildlife and plant populations, especially deer, mountain lions, rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species, wetlands, riparian and aquatic habitat.

Specifically, the Act requires that \$4.5 million be appropriated to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Of this amount, \$1.5 million shall be expended on projects that are located in the Santa Lucia Mountain Range in Monterey County; \$1.0 million shall be expended for acquisitions in, and adjacent to units of the state park system. The remaining \$2.0 million shall be used for 50 percent matching grants to local agencies for projects meeting requirements of the Act, and, for the acquisition of wildlife corridors and urban trails, nature interpretative programs, and other programs designed to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas.

The Act also required that \$4.0 million be appropriated to the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC); \$10.0 million to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), until July 1, 1995, after which the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) would be the recipient of these funds; \$500,000 to the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC); and the balance of the Fund, or \$11.0 million, to the WCB.

#### **EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS**

To assure critical habitat is acquired, restored and/or enhanced, Section 2786 of the Act specifies that funds are to be expended on (a) the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands for the protection of deer and mountain lions; (b) the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species; (c) the acquisition of habitat for Significant Natural Areas, (d) the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wetlands; (e) the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of aquatic habitat for spawning and rearing of anadromous salmonids and trout resources; and, (f) the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of riparian habitat.

Further complicating the expenditure requirements, the Act requires that over a 24-month period, to the extent practicable, expenditures should be made to achieve the following: (1) that 1/3 of the total expenditures be made for acquisitions of habitat necessary to protect deer and mountain lions; and the remaining 2/3 of the expenditures shall be made for acquisitions of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species; (2) that \$6.0 million be expended on the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands, and \$6.0 million be expended on the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic and riparian habitat, and (3) that 50 percent of the expenditures be made in Northern California and 50 percent of the expenditures be made in Southern California.

This report provides a complete listing of projects approved for funding by each of the participating entities during FY 00/01.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

While the expenditures can be summarized into the six major habitat categories, i.e., Section 2786 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f), many expenditures qualify for more than one program element or habitat as defined in the Act. For example, \$1.0 million could be expended for purposes of acquiring 50 acres to protect deer and mountain lions as defined in Section 2786 (a). That same 50 acres; however, may provide quality habitat for a rare, threatened or fully protected species, as defined in Section 2786 (b).

Stated differently, natural ecosystems are made up of a multitude of plants, animals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc., interacting with the natural elements as a whole system. Consequently, it is to be expected that some habitat protection efforts will contain more than one defined program element. When acquiring or restoring land, a parcel may be classified for a primary habitat value. Since natural areas are rarely monotypic, a second or even third program element may be present and will appropriately be given credit under that program.

Herein lies one of the major difficulties in reporting how funds are expended. To the extent possible, expenditures were reported for an individual and unique habitat that met one of the definitions of Section 2786. However, in several cases, the same funds were reported as expenditures for multiple types of habitat that met more than one of the definitions of how funds could be expended. Because of the identified multiple wildlife benefits, the reporting of funds by specific categories becomes more complicated.

## **HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND EXPENDITURES**

To better understand the accomplishments that were achieved from the expenditure of HCF funds, Table 1 summarizes the type and number of acres protected or restored and the dollars expended to protect, restore or enhance these acres; Table 2 summarizes the expenditures made by each of the participating entities and the purpose for which the expenditures were made, and Table 3 provides a summary of habitat acres protected and restored since 1990.

Table 1

<i>Type of Habitat Protected 2001</i>								
\$ in 1,000s								
	Deer and Lion Habitat	Threatened and Endangered Species	Significant Natural Areas	Wetland Habitat	Aquatic Habitat	Riparian Habitat	Urban Trails	Habitat Links
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 8,523</b>	<b>\$ 8,845</b>	<b>\$ 4,534</b>	<b>\$ 4,393</b>	<b>\$ 1,103</b>	<b>\$ 2,465</b>	<b>\$ 807</b>	<b>\$ 470</b>
<b>Acres Protected</b>	<b>15,121</b> 1, 3,	<b>17,941</b> 3,	<b>16,206</b>	<b>55,206</b> 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,	<b>564</b> 7,	<b>3,799</b> 3, 7, 8,	<b>242</b>	<b>1,005</b> 8,

- 1) SCC: 74 acres involving an assessment not included in total.
- 2) SCC: 3 acres involving preparation of a conceptual plan not included in total.
- 3) SCC: 1630 acres involving an appraisal not included in total.
- 4) SCC: 60,000 acres involving preparation of a monitoring plan not included in total.
- 5) SCC: 40,000 acres involving a plan to establishing regional coordination not included in total.
- 6) SCC: 40,000 acres involving a plan to develop a regional program not included in total.
- 7) SCC: 200 acres involving analysis of options not included in total.
- 8) SCC: 220 acres involving an appraisal not included in total.
- 9) SCC: 10 acres involving a study not included in total.
- 10) SCC: .13 acres involving a soils assessment not included in total.
- 11) SCC: 20 acres involving a scope of work not included in total.

Table 2

<i>Habitat Protection by Agency 2000-2001</i>								
<i>\$ in 1,000s</i>								
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Deer and Lion Habitat</b>	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	<b>Significant Natural Areas</b>	<b>Wetland Habitat</b>	<b>Aquatic Habitat</b>	<b>Riparian Habitat</b>	<b>Urban Trails</b>	<b>Habitat Links</b>
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$ 7,517	\$ 5,386	\$ 4,189	\$ 3,793	\$ -	\$ 1,085	\$ -	\$ 154
California State Coastal Commission	\$ 2	\$ 2,525	\$ 26	\$ 302	\$ 261	\$ 309	\$ -	\$ 5
Department of Parks and Recreation	\$1,004	\$934	\$319	\$48	\$578	\$820	\$807	\$311
California Tahoe Conservancy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 264	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 8,523</b>	<b>\$ 8,845</b>	<b>\$ 4,534</b>	<b>\$ 4,393</b>	<b>\$ 1,103</b>	<b>\$ 2,465</b>	<b>\$ 807</b>	<b>\$ 470</b>
<i>Acres Protected</i>								
Wildlife Conservation Board	10,754	14,566	14,226	12,004	0	369	0	275
California State Coastal Commission	1,630	2,530	848	42,782	6	3,136	0	0
Department of Parks and Recreation	2,737	845	1,132	400	555	289	242	730
California Tahoe Conservancy	0	0	0	20	3	5	0	0
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>15,121</b> 1, 3,	<b>17,941</b> 3,	<b>16,206</b>	<b>55,206</b> 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,	<b>564</b> 7,	<b>3,799</b> 3, 7, 8,	<b>242</b>	<b>1,005</b> 8,

- 12) SCC: 74 acres involving an assessment not included in total.
- 13) SCC: 3 acres involving preparation of a conceptual plan not included in total.
- 14) SCC: 1630 acres involving an appraisal not included in total.
- 15) SCC: 60,000 acres involving preparation of a monitoring plan not included in total.
- 16) SCC: 40,000 acres involving a plan to establishing regional coordination not included in total.
- 17) SCC: 40,000 acres involving a plan to develop a regional program not included in total.
- 18) SCC: 200 acres involving analysis of options not included in total.
- 19) SCC: 220 acres involving an appraisal not included in total.
- 20) SCC: 10 acres involving a study not included in total.
- 21) SCC: .13 acres involving a soils assessment not included in total.
- 22) SCC: 20 acres involving a scope of work not included in total.

Table 3

<i>Type of Habitat Protected 1990 to 2001</i>								
<i>\$ in 1,000s</i>								
	Deer and Lion Habitat	Threatened and Endangered Species	Significant Natural Areas	Wetland Habitat	Aquatic Habitat	Riparian Habitat	Urban Trails	Habitat Links
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 59,329</b>	<b>\$ 100,783</b>	<b>\$ 36,962</b>	<b>\$ 54,077</b>	<b>\$ 28,310</b>	<b>\$48,922</b>	<b>\$ 81,986</b>	<b>\$ 51,046</b>
<b>Acres Protected</b>	<b>79,539</b>	<b>77,150</b>	<b>44,938</b>	<b>1,234,655</b>	<b>850,741</b>	<b>76,854</b>	<b>43,244</b>	<b>33,850</b>

As previously mentioned, the Act requires that 50 percent of the funds be expended in Northern California and 50 percent in Southern California, as defined. For FY 00/01, the data reported reflects a total of \$26.9 million expended from the Habitat Conservation Fund. Of this amount, \$22.1 million was expended in Northern California and \$4.8 million was expended in Southern California.

The 00/01 Budget appropriated \$21 million to the WCB. Of this amount, Budget Bill language required that \$642,000 be made available to the Department of Fish and Game. This report only identifies the amount of monies transferred to the Department of Fish and Game; it does not provide an accounting on how these funds were expended with respect to the requirements of the Act.

The Act also states that, "to the extent practicable ... all agencies expending funds should use the services of the California Conservation Corps and local community conservation corps." Of the 77 projects reported, none used the services of the California Conservation Corps or local community conservation corps. This low participation rate could be attributed to the nature of the projects reported. Many projects were planning/development/assessment projects to determine the viability of future restoration or enhancement efforts as opposed to on-the-ground restoration or enhancement projects. As such, the services provided by the California Conservation Corps or local assistance groups may not be appropriate.

Section 2794 requires that any state or local agency that manages lands acquired with funds appropriated from the HCF shall prepare, with full public participation, a management plan for lands acquired. Based upon the reported information, 18 of the 77 projects indicated that a management plan had been prepared. It should be noted, that many reported projects reflect an expansion of an existing public area and/or are included in a project area plan that contains an operational and management element.

To further understand how the funds were expended by each of the participating entities, the following section provides a summary of projects funded in FY 00/01.

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Funds Appropriated	\$21,000,000
Funds Allocated	\$18,386,586
Pass-through to DFG	\$642,000

### Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Allensworth-Exp 21	Tulare	\$ 1,500	2
Allensworth-Exp 22	Tulare	\$ 2,500	12
Andrew Creek ER, Exp 1	Tuolumne	\$ 4,667	80
Butte Valley WA, Meiss Lake Conservation Easements	Siskiyou	\$ 9,000	17
Butte Valley WA, Meiss Lake Conservation Easements, Exp. #1	Siskiyou	\$ 72,000	74
Butte Valley WA, Meiss Lake Conservation Easements, Exp. #2	Siskiyou	\$ 14,000	28
Canada de Los Osos	Santa Clara	\$ 3,475,000	4400
Chilcoot WA	Plumas	\$ 124,000	235
Chilcoot WA, Exp 1	Plumas	\$ 48,000	20
Chilcoot WA, Exp 2	Plumas	\$ 58,000	20
Daugherty Hill WA, Exp 5	Yuba	\$ 3,630,000	3558
Daugherty Hill WA, Exp 6	Yuba	\$ 178,000	60
Daugherty Hill WA, Exp 7	Yuba	\$ 255,000	200
Daugherty Hill WA, Exp 8	Yuba	\$ 60,000	20
Lassen Foothills	Tehama	\$ 410,000	9577
Leek Springs Valley ER	El Dorado	\$ 175,000	160
Musty Buck Ridge CE	Butte	\$ 1,765,000	3884
Pine Hill ER, Cameron Park Unit, Ponderosa 50	El Dorado	\$ 908,000	90
South Fork Kern River ER-Canebrake Creek Exp. 1	Kern	\$ 248,000	120
Wetland CEP and Restoration (Hughes Ranch)	Butte	\$ 339,776	160
Wetland CEP and Restoration (Orme Ranch)	Butte	\$ 1,035,224	517
Wetland CEP, Cherokee Farms	Butte	\$ 1,266,549	476
Camp Cady WA, Exp 7	San Bernardino	\$ 825,000	317
Coachella Valley ER, Exp 12	Riverside	\$ 425,000	34
Coachella Valley ER, Exp 13	Riverside	\$ 825,000	73
Colton Dunes ER	San Bernardino	\$ 801,000	8
Del Mar Mesa Vernal Pool Preserve	San Diego	\$ 275,000	10
East Elliott Preserve (City of San Diego)	San Diego	\$ 14,950	240
<b>WCB Acquisition Total</b>		<b>\$ 17,245,166</b>	<b>24,392</b>

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Gray Lodge WA, Water Distribution System, Phase II	Butte	\$ 500,000	9,000
RHR, Sacramento River WA, Moulton Weir Unit	Colusa	\$ 248,420	46
WHR, (Bluebird Farms)	Yuba	\$ 40,000	147
WHR, (Richens)	Butte	\$ 45,000	200
WHR, Eel River WA	Humboldt	\$ 115,000	200
WHR, Napa Marsh WA, Huichica Creek Unit	Napa/Sonoma	\$ 71,000	25
WHR, North Pintail Slough	Kern	\$ 110,000	1,000
RHR, Harper's Well	Imperial	\$ 12,000	6
<b>WCB Total Development</b>		<b>\$ 1,141,420</b>	<b>10,624</b>

### **STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY**

Funds Appropriated: \$4,000,000  
Funds Allocated: \$3,098,620

### Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

Granite Rock Dunes Enhancement Plan	Monterey	\$ 2,000,000	51
Mori Point	San Mateo	\$ 250,000	109
Martin Dunes	Monterey	\$ 253,750	125
Edison-Huntington Beach	Orange	\$ 3,000	17
Edison Ormond Beach	Ventura	\$ 18,000	615
Santa Clara River - Coastal Berry	Ventura	\$ 5,000	216
Carmel River Enhancement	Monterey	\$ 11,000	200
Clinton Basin Concept Plan	Alameda	\$ 9,313	3
Hiller West	Humboldt	\$ 890	74
Introduced Spartina Project	San Francisco	\$ 9,300	40,000
Introduced Spartina Project Eradication Project Phase I - Stage I	San Francisco	\$ 32,000	40,000
San Francisco Bay Wetlands Monitoring	San Francisco	\$ 15,584	60,000
<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS</b>		<b>\$ 2,607,837</b>	<b>141,410</b>

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

Cloverdale Ranch Plan Improvement	San Mateo	\$ 250,001	6
Eel River Animal Waste Management	Humboldt	\$ 41,808	1,500
Introduced Spartina Project Eradication Project Phase I - Stage I	San Francisco	\$ 24,000	40,000
Sonoma Baylands Wetland Restoration	Sonoma	\$ 1,240	300
Triangle G Ranch	San Francisco	\$ 2,000	1,630
Paradise Creek Educational Park	San Diego	\$ 4,900	4
Santa Clara River	Ventura	\$ 4,500	220
Friendship Marsh - Phase II	San Diego	\$ 5,334	20
Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Study	Santa Barbara	\$ 150,000	10
Paradise Creek Educational Park	San Diego	\$ 7,000	0
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		<b>\$ 490,783</b>	<b>43,690</b>





## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Funds Appropriated: \$4,500,000

Fund Allocated: \$4,611,117

### Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

Project	County	P-117 \$	Total acres
Anza-Borrego Desert SP/Lucky 5 Ranch	San Diego	\$322,387	2675
BLM Acquisition	San Luis Obispo	\$175,000	1571
Calabasas Peak - Tarweed	Los Angeles	\$300,000	80
Clayton Ranch	Alameda	\$200,000	331
Empire Mine SHP/Wolf Creek - Phase II	Nevada	\$420,730	17
Los Gatos Creek Trail	Santa Clara	\$100,000	2
Lusardi Creek Preserve	San Diego	\$100,000	25
Mills Creek Open Space	San Mateo	\$150,000	256
Nicholas Canyon	Los Angeles	\$356,848	100
Point Lobos State Reserve/Point Lobos Ranch	Monterey	\$1,500,000	494
Soquel Creek Headwaters	San Mateo	\$274,000	493
Woodward and Leonard Project	Los Angeles	\$56,152	1
<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS</b>		<b>\$3,955,117</b>	<b>6044</b>

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

Project	County	P-117 \$	Total acres
Humbug-Willow Creek Trail	Sacramento	\$157,000	1
Kahler Russel Park Trail	Los Angeles	\$175,000	1
Malibu Creek	Los Angeles	\$54,000	61
Minor's Ridge Trail	San Diego	\$20,000	4
Santa Rosa Creek	Sonoma	\$250,000	1
<b>DEVELOPMENT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$656,000</b>	<b>68</b>

## CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

Funds Appropriated: \$500,000

Funds Expended: \$763,550

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

Project	County	P-117 \$	Acres
Washoe Meadows Phase IV Stream and Wetland Restoration Project	El Dorado	\$452,750	25
Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project Design, Development and Implementation Activities	Place/El Dorado	\$310,800	0
<b>CTC TOTALS</b>		<b>\$763,550</b>	<b>25</b>

## **CONCLUSIONS**

According to the information and data provided to the WCB, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 is protecting critical habitat in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Act.

With \$18,386,586 allocated from the Habitat Conservation Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Board funded many diverse projects in FY 00/01. Many of the projects funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board focused on the restoration or enhancement of critical wetland and riparian habitat with grants made through the Inland Wetland Conservation Program and the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program. Also, existing ecological reserves and wildlife areas were expanded through a variety of means, including land donations/exchanges, conservation easements and fee acquisitions. Other projects In FY 00/01, the Wildlife Conservation Board protected, restored and enhanced thousands of acres of critical habitat for a host of fish, wildlife and plant species.

During the 2000-01 fiscal year the Tahoe Conservancy authorized the expenditure of \$763,550 for planning design, and implementation of two habitat improvement projects described more fully below. The first wildlife habitat improvement project, the Washoe Meadows Phase IV Stream and Wetland Restoration Project, involves a grant of \$452,750 in Proposition 117 funds (out of a total of \$580,000 in Conservancy funds) to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for wildlife and fisheries habitat enhancement activities on up to 25 acres of wetland habitat. The second wildlife habitat improvement activity (various locations including: Lake Tahoe Basin, Barton Meadow, Blackwood Creek, Burton Creek, Lake Forest, Polaris Creek and Upper Truckee River) involves the encumbrance of \$310,800 for planning and designs for several habitat improvement projects, and construction management of previously authorized projects.

The DPR allocated \$4,611,117 from the Habitat Conservation Fund. This year's State Parks' habitat purchase program continued phased acquisition efforts at Empire Mine State Historic Park and Point Lobos State Reserve and funded a new purchase at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. In addition to the State Park System projects, the Department funded fourteen local assistance projects for a total of \$2,368,000.

The California State Coastal Conservancy allocated a total of \$3,098,620 from the Habitat Conservation Fund to fund many varied projects. Among those projects were: The funding of the Eel River Animal Waste Management Project, which will help dairy operators control and decrease waste runoff to the Eel River in Humboldt Co; the acquisition of 615 acres on Ormond Beach in Ventura Co. for wetland habitat restoration; and the continuation of the Spartina Eradication Project initiated in the 1999-2000 FY to prevent the spread of alien cordgrass throughout the San Francisco Bay.

A total of \$26.9 million was expended in fiscal year 2000-01 from the HCF for planning activities relative to 140,527 acres and to acquire, restore and/or enhance 85,726 acres of critical habitat. In addition, it appears that urban trails and/or efforts designed to join or link critical habitat areas remains a high priority effort for many agencies receiving monies from

the HCF as a greater emphasis continues to be made on providing public access and urban trails designed to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas. This is especially encouraging, as more citizens of California will have access to and benefit from our natural resources.

Collectively, the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 are protecting, restoring and enhancing critical wildlife habitat and fisheries in California. As the population of California continues to grow, it is reassuring to know that the provisions of this Act are preserving and protecting the rapidly disappearing unique and varied wildlife resources that the citizens of California have grown to cherish.